

# VIETNAM COURIER

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## PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH's NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

Beloved compatriots and fighters,

1968 was a year of very glorious victories for our armed forces and people throughout the country. The U.S. imperialists had to end unconditionally their war of destruction in the North.

Since early Spring 1968, our compatriots and fighters in heroic South Viet Nam have been mounting wave after wave of attacks and uprisings which have all recorded very great successes.

Certainly the U.S. aggressors will meet with total failure. Our armed forces and people throughout the country, carried forward by the impetus of their victories, will without doubt achieve complete triumph.

On the occasion of New Year 1969, on behalf of our entire people, I wish to convey my warm greetings and thanks to the brotherly socialist countries, friendly countries and peace- and justice-loving people in the world, including the progressive people in the United States, for their wholehearted support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's struggle against the aggressors for national salvation.

I dedicate my best wishes of solidarity, struggle and success in the New Year to our fellow-countrymen, fighters and cadres and Chinese residents in both South and North Viet Nam, and to our nationals abroad.

I dedicate the following lines to the New Spring:

Last year was full of glorious victories.

This year the forefront's sure to win still bigger ones.

For Independence, for Freedom,

Let's fight so the Yanks quit, and the puppets topple.

Forward! Fighters, countrymen's!

North and South reunited, could there be happier Spring!

Spring 1969

HO CHI MINH



President Ho Chi Minh  
venerated leader of the Vietnamese people

Happy New Year

VIET NAM COURIER

# FORWARD TO WIN COMPLETE VICTORY!

(abridged translation from NHAN DAN Editorial on Jan. 1, 1969)

**1968** was a year of unprecedentedly big and allround successes for the Vietnamese people's fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. It marked a great turning point, opening a new stage of the struggle: one of general offensives and widespread uprisings at the general front, one of vigorous and steady strides of the Vietnamese people toward complete victory. 1968 was a "Viet Nam Year" for the people of many countries and at many important international conference. 1968 was a great year in the history of our nation's resistance to U.S. aggression for national salvation. It has had a deep impact on our struggle and the revolutionary struggle of the whole progressive mankind.

**1968** was a year of very brilliant achievements for the armed forces and people throughout our country.

In South Viet Nam, after driving 1.2 million U.S. troops on the defensive the patriotic armed forces

and peoples sprung a most daring awe-inspiring strategic surprise attack: the early Spring sweeping general offensive and simultaneous uprisings. The U.S. aggressors were taken by surprise, caught napping and struck with fright. The world was shaken and filled with admiration. The hide-outs of the U.S.-puppets in all towns and cities, almost all provincial capitals and district towns, military sub-sectors, hundreds of airfields, bases, depots and arsenals, the enemy came under stormy and repeated attacks; the puppet army and administration was swept away by chunks and became crumby from top to bottom.

The series of attacks following the Lunar New Year Festival in January 1968 and 18 others in early March dealt a mortal blow at the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, wiping out or destroying one-third of the total of U.S. puppet and satellite effective, putting out of action or heavily decimating one-third of the number of puppets and satellites, destroying two-fifths of the total of aircraft, one-third of the ar-

mored cars and half the logistics nerves of the U.S. aggressors. Liberated more than 100 villages and more than 600 additional hamlets (between January 30 and March 15).

The defeat of the U.S. in both the military and political fields and the U.S. and its war of aggression was irretrievably doomed. This was evidenced by the dismantling of W.C. Westland and Johnson's withdrawal from the presidential election and his order on the "limited bombing" of North Viet Nam.

Again in May, the South Viet Nam PLAF struck a hammer blow at the gaping wound of the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys. Launched at a time when the U.S.-pup-

pets had considerably strengthened their defences, these powerful and simultaneous attacks which lasted 10 days in a row and set new records in terms of enemy manpower and war materials destroyed, particularly the daring assault on the Saigon-Cholon-Giaodinh area, proved the extraordinary growth of the South Viet Nam revolution and the losing position of the enemy. The Khe Sanh campaign can never recover from his defeat. These attacks also signalled the failure of the U.S. "clear-and-hold" strategy.

Together with the May actions, the Khe Sanh victory bore a tremendous significance. It showed that the South

Viет Nam armed forces and people had become strong enough to withstand series of powerful strikes right at the enemy's hide-outs in the cities and, at the same time, to dislodge him from his most strongly fortified positions. The Khe Sanh campaign has smashed the "symbol" of U.S. aggressive determination.

As the reverberations of the Khe Sanh victory were still ringing throughout the world, the war broke again in August and September. Enemy sanctuaries in 30 cities and provincial capitals, more than 200 townships, district capitals and military

(Continued page 2)

## SOUTH VIET NAM

## 11 ENEMY COMPANIES WIPE OUT IN 7 DAYS ON SAIGON FRONT

(Page 11)





# ANY AGGRESSOR WHO PERSISTS IN HIS ATTEMPT AGAINST OUR COUNTRY WILL INEVITABLY COURT SHAMEFUL DEFEAT

Excerpts from a speech delivered at a grand meeting held in Hanoi to mark the anniversaries of the founding of the Viet Nam People's Army (Dec. 22, 1944) and the First National Resistance (Dec. 19 1946)

**T**HE Vietnamese people are waging the greatest war of resistance in their nation's history and are writing new, extremely glorious pages of history. We are defeating the U.S. imperialists in their bitter, long war of aggression since World War Two, which is also their biggest neo-colonial war of aggression against the National Liberation movement, which is rapidly becoming a tidal wave. We have defeated the U.S. imperialists' war of destruction carried out with air and naval forces against North Viet Nam, and implemented a strategy in their scheme to intensify their war of aggression against our country. Blinded by their aggressive nature, the U.S. imperialists have recklessly attacked our people, who have distinguished record in the building and defence of their country.

As a result of their foolish calculation the U.S. aggressors have bumped their heads against the indomitable strength of our people, who have moved from the South to the North, united to fight a great people's war, and have invited upon themselves ignominious defeat.

**O**N the great front of the country, directly confronting the U.S. aggressors, our heroic South Vietnamese people and armed forces, under the banner of the South Viet Nam NLF, have braved all hardships, difficulties and, time and again, valiantly and persistently repulsed the foreign aggressors. Though the U.S. imperialists have taken their local war to a high level, raised the strength of the U.S. puppet and their armed forces to a maximum, our people's Liberation Armed Forces, maintaining and developing their offensive, have fought off one after another all the counter-offensives of the U.S. aggressors. Early Spring this year, our Southern fellow countrymen and fighters, fired by a vigorous mettle of offensive and a burning desire to win, have been mounting waves of general offensives and widespread uprisings and have se-

conded unprecedentedly big and allround victories. Within a short period of time the revolution in the South has made a leaping bound, ushering in a new situation, to our great advantage and to the great discomfiture of the enemy. Our strength, military and political, has been unceasingly on the rise while the U.S. puppet has been critically on the downward grade, in terms of morale, discipline, power, and political results. *defeat is now higher and firmer than ever before.*

The U.S. aggressors have tried to shake our people's fighting will through the most vicious bombing and shelling, however, our people's results in defeating them is *more than ever before.* They have striven to sever the blood-smeared bonds between North and South Viet Nam by means of desolation and massacres. *now over 31 million countrymen are now united more closely and are carrying on the fight shoulder to shoulder.*

In attacking North Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists hoped to weaken our economy and our national defence.

But in the crucible of war, our national defence has been remarkably strengthening and our socialist economy has fully demonstrated its superiority and has unceasingly been rising in turn. *Communications and transport have been kept open in all circumstances; the postal, educational and public health have been developing.*

After four years of local war with more than half a million U.S. troops as the hard core, the U.S. imperialists have had to contemplate "de-Americanizing" the war. Thus, they have adopted a new strategy, *to fall back, then to decide to bring U.S. troops into South Viet Nam to save the puppet army and administration from collapse.*

It is a vicious circle, an impasse for the U.S. imperialists. They have been forced to retreat, to the path of retreat which they had trodden, and which had led Ngo Dinh Diem to downfall and their "special war" strategy to complete bankruptcy.

We are confident that the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam, imperialists' "soft core", will considerably increase their resistance, will certainly continue to march forward and defeat completely every new scheme and manoeuvre of the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, and to win big and glorious victories in their advance to final victory.

**I**N the North, under the clear-sighted leadership of our Party, our armed forces and people have won a tremendous victory over the U.S. aggressors.

**U**SR successes and U.S. setbacks on the Viet Nam battlefield prove that in our era, a people, even with a not very vast territory and not very large population, not congenitally suited to the struggle for their independence and freedom, armed with a correct line, fired by a great determination to fight and at the same time knowing how to fight, will defeat any aggressor, be it U.S. imperialism.

**U**SR strength is the strength of a heroic nation, the strength of a traditional determination to fight and to win, the invincible strength of a people, the strength of a people, the strength of a people of tomorrow. The great victory of our people also stems from the fully correct and very creative revolutionary and military line of our Party. This line is imaginatively applied to Vietnamese reality. It sets forth the spirit of thoroughgoing revolution of the working class of our country, the traditions of struggle of our Nation against foreign aggression, the cause and independence of our people. *Victory is won at the same time, it is the expression of the first revolutionary virtue of progressive mankind.*

The victory of our people is a very

success, in foiling their war of destruction, all their foolish ambitions and all their strategic objectives.

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General VO NGUYEN GIAP

**U**PHOLDING the heroic tradition and the powerful national feeling of the Vietnamese people, our Party has enhanced their general patriotism and nationalism with Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, raised it to the highest degree and turned it into Vietnamese **revolutionary heroism**, the great source of strength of the present fight for national and class liberation.

**I**t is on this political and ideological basis that our people have developed a Vietnamese military line and are carrying out the directive for fighting the enemy and the guideline for leading the fight, promoted the collective ingenuity of the revolutionary masses, translated into reality the watchword "the entire people fight against the U.S. aggressor". The **million of our people are at million** fighters, using a small force to fight a bigger one, defeating a big force with a smaller one, combining big, medium-sized and small battles, using a big force to attack at the same striking the enemy from a strong position and achieving very high combat efficiency, become stronger and win ever bigger victories as they fight.

Since the U.S. imperialists started their war of destruction against the North, our Party has made a skilful use of the people's war as an antidote to a very dangerous situation. **Since** the U.S. imperialists have mobilized the entire people in the effort with the armed forces as the hard core, and fought the enemy in all fields, coupling the fight against the enemy with the constant struggle against the U.S. aggressor, the people can take pride in their many glorious traditions of struggle against aggression and of remarkably successful resistance to imperialism. In the course of the war, they have defeated their **successively** the aggressors and enemies of three brutal imperialisms, including U.S. imperialism, the Huns of our era.

Our Party has applied Marxism-Leninism to the specific conditions of Viet Nam and the realities of our times. It has shed a bright light on the objective of the people's war of resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, as a **revolutionary war, a national liberation war versus a neo-colonialist war**, a fight for the independence, freedom and unity of the Vietnamese people. **U.S. imperialism**, the aggressor, has fearlessly risen up, those in the front who have fallen, the whole country united as one man, and have defeated many armies of aggression many times larger than them.

For **independence and freedom**, our forefathers have fearlessly risen up, those in the front who have fallen, the whole country united as one man, and have defeated many armies of aggression many times larger than them.

**U**SR Party has organized the heroic armed forces of the Vietnamese people, combining the regular, the regional armed forces and the militia and guerrilla. They make up a wonderful army which, within only a score of years, has grown from small guerrilla bands into a powerful army, always, in war with the U.S. aggressor, defeated Japanese fascism and French imperialism and is today getting the better of U.S. imperialism.

What a glory and pride for the Vietnamese people's armed forces to be the sons of the working people of Viet Nam, of the heroic Vietnamese people!

What a glory and pride for our entire people and army to fight under the ever-victorious banner of the glorious Viet Nam Workers' Party and esteemed President Ho Chi Minh!

Born of the people, led by the Party of the working class, carrying in them the blood of a heroic people, and built along the Marxist-Leninist line, the Vietnamese people's armed forces, placing the glorious task assigned by history and the people, which is to **unite with the entire people to completely defeat the U.S. aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North and achieve the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.**

by General VO NGUYEN GIAP

glorious responsibility, to continually increase their vigilance and their combat capacity, and to resolutely cooperate with the entire people and assist complete defeat on the U.S. aggressors and achieve final victory.

With all the moral and material strength of a nation on the road to victory, our people and armed forces of resistance of our entire people, the U.S. aggressors, has entered a new stage. U.S. failure is apparent and its setbacks will continue. Our people and armed forces have won big successes and are advancing toward complete victory. However, the U.S. imperialists remain very stubborn and have not yet given up their aggressive design against our country.

They have lost all hope of a military victory, of a clear-cut military victory over the U.S. aggressor. In recklessness and obstinacy, they have invaded Viet Nam. Like a mortally wounded beast, the U.S. aggressors are still with their tails between their ears. They have stopped no earthenware methods, have been frantically using B-52 bombers, bombs, shells and mortars, chemicals and ravage towns and villages. They have launched a so-called "accelerated pacification". Through stepped up repression and terror against all those in the areas under their control who yearn for independence and peace, they

are as long as South Viet Nam is not liberated, in their efforts to maintain their neo-colonial rule in South Viet Nam. Like a mortally wounded beast, the U.S. aggressors are still with their tails between their ears. They have stopped no earthenware methods, have been frantically using B-52 bombers, bombs, shells and mortars, chemicals and ravage towns and villages. They have launched a so-called "accelerated pacification".

The military and political schemes and moves of the U.S. imperialists are clearly exposed. Their present intention to keep up pressure on the battlefield, to achieve a settlement to the war, favourable to them. On the other hand, our people and armed forces, with their contradictions, they are constantly weakening and losing position of the aggressors as well as their confusion in their blind ally. That the U.S. and its henchmen prolong the war only to bring heavier burdens upon themselves is left in no doubt.

**S**ince the shock force of the entire people in the war of resistance to the U.S. aggressor and for national salvation, our people's armed forces undertake to discharge thoroughly their

responsibility in the history of our nation's resistance to foreign invasion.

Our nation is having the honour to stand at the forefront of the revolution, to struggle for the independence of our people against U.S. imperialism, the enemy number one of the progressive mankind.

Our path to complete victory is

still beset with many hardships and many sacrifices. For the independence and freedom of our Fatherland, to fulfil their noble internationalist duty, our people are resolved to strengthen our armed forces, to develop our production, to fight and to win, they are

resolved to fight and break the aggressive will of the U.S. imperialists, and secure complete victory.



This PLAF fighter was only yesterday an ordinary South Vietnamese town girl.



## NFL President Sends Message To American People

Giai Phong Press Agency has released the following letter dated Dec. 20, 1969, from Lawyer Nguyen Van Huu, President of the Presidium of the South Vietnamese NFL to the American NFL:

"Dear friends,  
On the occasion of Christmas and the New Year's Day, I wish all the South Vietnamese people and the NFL and in my own name, to extend to you my best greetings and wishes for a happy, progressive and peaceful New Year."

"I sincerely thank you for your great efforts to stop the war of aggression of the U.S. government against our country."

"Confronted with the valiant and unyielding struggle of the Viet Nam and under the impact of those of other peoples in the world, the U.S. government has been forced to make unconditionally its humiliations and shellings on the whole territory of the DRVN and agree to a conference with the participation of the DRVN."

"Moreover, the U.S. and the Saigon administration have been using every way and means to delay the quadripartite Paris conference."

"It is our conviction that you who inherit the American people's tradition of freedom and independence will work intensely together with our people and the progressive people of the world over the pressure of the U.S. government to stop the aggression against Viet Nam, withdraw all troops of the U.S. and its satellites and all their weapons and other means from the South Vietnamese people for independence and peace consistent with the legitimate interests of our people."

"However, the U.S. government has not yet given up its aggressive design, it is instead stubbornly stepping up its bandit policy for the legitimate interests of our two peoples and the interests of world peace will certainly win complete victory."

"I wish you a happy New Year and new successes."

only the delegation of the DRVN Government and that of the South Vietnamese National Front for Liberation are the representatives of the Vietnamese people at the Paris conference", the Prince stressed.

all U.S. troops from South Viet Nam."

Referring to the Saigon puppet administration, Prince Norodom Sihanouk said that Cambodia "will never recognize the government and particularly the anti-communist representatives of the Thieu-Ky-Huon clique."

"At the Paris Conference, they only represent themselves and have no right to represent the Vietnamese people", he added.

"Cambodia demands that the U.S. stop completely its aggressive war in Viet Nam and unconditionally withdraw

the Cambodian Head of State to the Paris Conference."

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## New Successful Hydrogen Bomb Test By China

Hsinhua (New China) Agency reported that, on Dec. 27 China exploded a new hydrogen bomb in the Western part of her territory and conducted successfully a new thermo-nuclear test, which marked a new leap forward of her advanced science and technology. This splendid success clearly testifies to the vigorous and steady progress made by China in the research on, and the manufacture and testing of, nuclear weapons. Within a short time, from Oct. 1964 to June 1967, China carried out many successful tests of atomic bomb, thermo-nuclear bomb, guided missile with nuclear warhead and hydrogen bomb. Her advance is all the more evident when compared with the United States, a big capitalist power having a developed industry, which took eight years from the first atomic bomb to a hydrogen bomb. The new achievement of China proves that she is constantly perfecting the different kinds of her nuclear weapons.

The Vietnamese people greatly rejoice at this event. They take this opportunity to convey their warmest congratulations to the Party, Government and brotherly people of China and to the Chinese workers, cadres and the People's Liberation Army and to all Chinese scientific and technical workers.

## 140 Million WFTU Members Will Always Be On the Fighting Vietnamese People's Side

THE 18th session of the General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions, held in Paris from Dec. 10 to Dec. 16, approved a resolution on Viet Nam. The resolution warmly acclaimed the magnificent victories of the Vietnamese people in both zones in the fight against the U.S. aggressors, especially those won by the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in the course of the generalized offensives and uprisings started at the beginning of 1968 under the glorious banner of the NFL. The victories of the Vietnamese people, the resolution said, have forced the U.S. unconditional bombing halt on the whole territory of the DRVN.

The resolution acclaimed the good-will of the DRVN Government and the South Viet Nam NFL which have agreed to take part in the Paris quadripartite Conference. It protested against U.S. continued step up of the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, encroaching upon the sovereignty, threatening the security of the DRVN and the U.S.

they increase their combat capacity and build up their country, to further broaden the movement of boycott of the production and shipment of U.S. arms and war material used for the prolongation of the war of aggression against Viet Nam and to support and encourage the anti-war movement in the U.S. which is developing in all forms.

On behalf of the 140 million members of the WFTU and the delegates from all continents, the 18th session of the WFTU Council declared that the WFTU would always be on the side of the workers and people of Viet Nam in their just struggle for complete victory. The General Council unanimously decided to send to Paris a delegation led by the President of the WFTU and comprising representatives of all continents to bring to the notice of the U.S. representatives the opinion of the workers of the world and to express to the representatives of the DRVN and the South Viet Nam NFL the solidarity of the WFTU.

The resolution exhorted workers and TU organisations of all countries to step up the movement for material support to the Vietnamese people in both zones in order to help

China's successful building of a prosperous and powerful country as well as her development of nuclear weapons is irrefutable proof of the superiority of socialism. It is a splendid success of the 700 million Chinese who, under the leadership of the glorious Communist Party of China headed by esteemed Chairman Mao Tse-tung, constantly raising their revolutionary spirit and working with industry and creativeness, have within less than twenty years, turned the poor and backward China of the past into a big power endowed with modern industry, agriculture, national defence, science and technology.

The Vietnamese people greatly rejoice at this event. They take this opportunity to convey their warmest congratulations to the Party, Government and brotherly people of China and to the Chinese workers, cadres and the People's Liberation Army and to all Chinese scientific and technical workers.

Hoang Tung denounced the aggressive schemes of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys and declared: "We resolutely support the Cuban people's indomitable struggle against U.S. provocations and threats of aggression. We also condemn the reactionary administrations in some Latin American countries who, tainted after the U.S., are pursuing a hostile policy toward socialist Cuba."

On behalf of the Vietnamese people, Hoang Tung voiced deep gratitude to the Party, Government and the entire working people of Cuba for their unyielding, considerable and valuable support and assistance. He expressed the wish that under the leadership of the communist Party of Cuba headed by Premier Fidel Castro, the Cuban people would score greater successes in socialist construction and the struggle against U.S. aggression to defend Cuba, and in their assistance to the revolutionary struggle of the other peoples in Latin America and throughout the world.

From the status of slaves groaning for centuries under the iron heels of the imperialists and colonialists, the heroic Cuban people have been tempered through

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## 10th Anniversary of Cuba's Liberation Commemorated in Hanoi

A grand meeting in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Cuba's National Day was held in Hanoi on Dec. 23, under the joint sponsorship of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the Viet Nam-Cuba Friendship Association, the DRVN Commission for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. It was attended by representatives of government, mass organizations, services, mass organizations and public personalities.

The victory of Cuba's revolution was again proved to the world's peoples that a nation whose territory is not very large and whose population is very numerous but who are united and one-minded, who fear no sacrifice, fight dauntlessly and know how to defend and defeat an aggressor, be it U.S. imperialism, chieftain of the imperialists, and once having become a free people, are likely to grow quickly and become many times stronger in a relatively short period of history".

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## NFL FREES U.S. POW'S

THE representatives of the People's liberation Armed Forces Command in Eastern Bo handed over 31 American prisoners of war to the U.S. side at 8:40 hrs January 1st at Ta Nien, 9.3 km southwest of Tay Ninh provincial capital.

This took place, GPA said, after the U.S. had complied with the procedural requirements for the repatriation of the American POWs released by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

Donald G. Smith, father of Donald G. Smith, was reported by UPI to have expressed his gratitude to the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation for "taking care of our son, for keeping him alive."

The three men freed are James W. Brightman, Thomas N. Jones, and Donald G. Smith.

Before boarding their plane, they once again thanked the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation for its lenient and humane treatment.

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## MILITARY OPERATIONS

### 11 Enemy companies wiped out in 7 days on Saigon Front

4 in Tay Ninh province on December 23, 25 and 26

1 near Hon Quan on December 23

2 near Phuoc Binh on December 19 and 20

2 near Xuan Loc on December 21

2 East of Saigon on December 22

"Flying horsemen" was wiped out in a one-hour battle at Dac Cat, near the provincial capital of Phuoc Binh, 117km North-Northeast of Saigon. The regular troops of the PLAF and the militia, including 5 enemy companies, killing or wounding every trooper on board and seizing all their armaments. On Dec. 24, a puppet ranger company dispatched to the scene of the previous day's action, destroyed an U.S. disaster was also completed, and the company, leaving all its weapons. Next day, another puppet ranger company sent to Ta Pang experienced the same fate. After the battle, the column was rushed in and was probably intercepted and lost a 3rd company. Thus, in 7 days in a row, from the 23rd to the 29th, the PLAF shot down with all men on board killed or wounded, the American aggressors and their puppets lost 4 in their companies in Tay Ninh province.

On the Plain of Reeds, 8km North of the provincial capital of Xuan Loc and 65km East-Northeast of Saigon, the PLAF on Dec. 25 violently attacked puppet companies, capturing 5. After 2 hours' fighting, they destroyed the battalion H.Q., 2 companies, an artillery site and the radio station. The dead numbered 15 U.S. "advisers" and many puppet army officers. Next day, at about 20km South-Southeast of Saigon, the patriotic puppet companies 18 out of action and completely wiped out a "pacification" team at Phuoc Tho.

Lastly, on the Long Tau shipping channel, the PLAF got to the sea. Liberation summer hit a 20,000-ton cargo ship 27km Southeast of the city. The craft, the 3rd damaged on this river within 3 weeks, was ravaged by a big fire raged off by the pirates' shells.

In the Western Highlands, at Hon Cong near An Khe (23km South-Southeast of Tay Ninh), the PLAF destroyed a major part of a U.S. officers' camp on the night of Dec. 22 causing nearly 20 casualties.

On December 23, 24 and 25, the PLAF destroyed a major part of a U.S. officers' camp on the night of Dec. 22 causing nearly 20 casualties.

In the Mekong Delta, where the enemy was conduct-



Albanian people demonstrate in support of Viet Nam

## ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

A gallant fighter of the South Viet Nam PLAF

PHAN HANH SON

- 21 years of age
- 3 years of distinguished service
- Over 100 battles
- 474 enemy troops killed, wounded or captured
- 28 times cited as "Valiant Fighter" of the PLAF

Ed. - Company leader Phan Hanh Son of Hoa Vang district (Southern Da Nang), 21 years of age, and 3 years of distinguished service, has fought the enemy in over 100 battles, in all wiping out 452 adverse troops, capturing 22 others; seizing 28 weapons and shooting down 2 aircraft, and has been 28 times awarded the "Anti-U.S. Valiant Fighter" of the

THIS time Son received his assignment with unusual emotion. He could see in his mind's eyes the whole picture of his native village. His mother's words at the send-off on the Tet eve still rang in his ears: "Bear in mind that your Dad is still kept in jail by the U.S. aggressors, and the lackeys. You must be strong, sonny, thinking about Spring when we have not enough to eat even at Tet! Join the Revolution and return as early as you could to liberate your home village..."

Standing deep in thought before his commanders, Son promised to himself to devote heart and soul to securing success for the corps. *The time was August 1968 when Son was given orders to prepare the terrain at the Non Nuoc base camp so that the unit could be moved in for the destruction of this enemy position.*

enemy position.

Non Nuoc was a string of forts with rows of tent barracks and a multitude of blockhouses and bunkers looking like giant mushrooms around the foot of Mount Non Nuoc. Commanding the Southern gate of Da Nang city, it was the lair of a puppet ranger unit notorious for its atrocities and well covered by American units in the surrounding areas. Behind it was the Nuoc Man airfield where hundreds of helicopter gunships with masses of GI's stood by round the clock to fly support missions.

## LATEST NEWS

Buon Ho position completely destroyed,  
600 U.S.-puppet casualties

**A**T 2 a.m. on Dec 28 last, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported, the PLAF launched an attack in force against a big enemy troop concentration area in Buon Ho (205 km Northeast of Saigon), the district town, the military sub-sector H.Q., the encampment of a regular battalion, 2 companies of guards, 9 platoons of field police and civil guards and a "pacification" team.

information and slipped into the enemy hide-out to count every enemy blockhouse, every row of barbed-wire fence, every gun pit and every nook and cranny in the system of defense, map out the safest routes of approach for the unit, and work out tricks to cope with any contingency. He had to do this in secret, for a study of the enemy position he rejoin-ed his unit, his men hardly recogniz-ing their commander. He got sun-burns all over his body which had patches of lighter skin, and he had lost flesh visibly.

On behalf of the scout team, he made a detailed report on the enemy's situation and his routine, showing the loop holes in his defence and suggesting a surprise and daring operation. His plan was immediately adopted by his comrades' ideas and approved by his superiors. The attacking forces got the marching orders. Son's company was assigned to the task of capturing the bridge at Non Nangphong. On the night of August 21, 1968, the unit set off. The combatants quietly advanced in the direction of the enemy post in the light of moonlight and crawled into the air or dropped from aircraft by the enemy. Arriving at destination, they sank into the white sandy beach and waited. Twin-engine aircraft hovered and dropped firebombs to burn up the bridge. The team of helicopter gunships flew observation missions and pulled suspected

areas with machine-gun bullets. Ultra-powerful searchlights from nearby posts swept close to the ground. Hundreds of thousands of electric lights at Nuoc Man airfield and the ranger camp at Non Nuoc, together with searchlights and flares, brilliantly lit up the glittering sandy beach and the pale blue sea surface with its glimmering surfs, making enemy patrollers stand out as grey silhouettes.

Sent felt anxiety gnaw at his stomach. He racked his brain for a way to lead his unit safety across the 500-metre long sandune. As the enemy was closing in, together with political instructor Binh and company deputy commander Lang, he led the unit and dashed towards the enemy. The unit had to cross the sandune. Nguoc was already a tough job. It was much tougher indeed to bring in a whole unit at the same time. Hardly the whole unit had crossed when suddenly friendly units began opening up. Son was burning with impatience. A split second of lagging now would let the opportunity slip. He had to lead the enemy away and bring disadvantage to us. He led the shock team and moved as fast he could towards the barbed-wire fence.

(Continued page 6)

## **Revolutionary Power set up in Quang-Ngai province**

Na statement released by Giai Phong Press Agency, the NFL of Quang Ngai informed the people in the province that U.S.-paid puppet regime had been deposed and revolutionary power at provincial level instituted.

The statement made known that since the launching of the generalized attacks and uprisings of the armed forces and people of Quang Ngai, 134 villages of this province with a population of more than 415,000 had been completely liberated. Elections to people's revolutionary councils have been held with heavy polling in 12 districts and 134 villages.

The Quang Ngai NFL declared that it had ousted the US-installed puppet administration in this province, at all levels — village, district and provincial. Anyone who persists in serving the U.S. aggressors will be punished, and guilty people who show repentance and want to mend their way will be forgiven and even awarded if they have rendered service to the national cause.

The Quang Ngai NFL also declared that the people's revolutionary committee had been set up at provincial level to organize and lead the struggle of the local people until complete victory over the U.S. aggressors.



*My Thuan (Soc Trang Province) people sending off their sons to the Liberation Army.*

## ALL FOR VICTORY OVER U.S. AGGRESSORS